

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method for forming an elastomeric glove, said method comprising:
dipping a hand-shaped former into at least one bath containing an
elastomeric material to form a substrate body, said substrate body having an inner
5 surface and an outer surface that define a hand-shaped cavity, said inner surface
being positioned adjacent to said hand-shaped former;

applying a hydrogel coating to said outer surface of said substrate body
while said inner surface of said substrate body remains adjacent to said hand-
shaped former, wherein said hydrogel coating has a thickness of from about 0.1 to
10 about 20 micrometers; and

thereafter, stripping the glove from said hand-shaped former without the use
of an antiblocking powder, wherein the glove is inverted so that said outer surface
of said substrate body applied with said hydrogel coating is configured to face a
user's hand when inserted into said hand-shaped cavity.

2. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said elastomeric material of said
substrate body includes an emulsion-based elastomeric material.

3. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said emulsion-based
elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of natural rubber latex,
isoprene polymers, chloroprene polymers, vinyl chloride polymers, butadiene
20 polymers, styrene-butadiene polymers, carboxylated styrene-butadiene polymers,
acrylonitrile-butadiene polymers, carboxylated acrylonitrile-butadiene polymers,
acrylonitrile-styrene-butadiene polymers, carboxylated acrylonitrile-styrene-
butadiene polymers, derivatives thereof, and combinations thereof.

4. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said elastomeric material of said
25 substrate body includes natural rubber latex.

5. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said hydrogel coating is formed
by crosslinking a hydrogel-forming polymer to form a substantially water-insoluble
hydrogel network.

6. A method as defined in claim 5, wherein said hydrogel-forming polymer
30 is formed from at least one monomer that is hydrophilic and water-soluble.

7. A method as defined in claim 6, wherein said monomer is selected from
the group consisting of vinyl pyrrolidones, hydroxyethyl acrylates, hydroxyethyl
methacrylates, hydroxypropyl acrylates, hydroxypropyl methacrylates, acrylic

acids, methacrylic acids, acrylic esters, methacrylic esters, vinyl pyridines, acrylamides, vinyl alcohols, ethylene oxides, derivatives thereof, and combinations thereof.

5 8. A method as defined in claim 6, wherein said monomer is selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethyl acrylates, hydroxyethyl methacrylates, hydroxypropyl acrylates, derivatives thereof, and combinations thereof.

9. A method as defined in claim 1, wherein said hydrogel coating further contains an active agent capable of imparting a benefit to a user.

10 10. A method as defined in claim 9, wherein said active agent is a drug, a skin-conditioner, a botanical agent, or combinations thereof.

11. A method as defined in claim 9, wherein said active agent is releasable from said hydrogel coating when said coating is contacted with an aqueous environment.

15 12. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising applying a lubricant coating to said outer surface substrate body.

13. A method as defined in claim 12, wherein said lubricant coating is applied prior to stripping the glove from said hand-shaped former.

14. A method as defined in claim 12, wherein said lubricant coating contains a silicone emulsion.

20 15. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein the solids content of said silicone emulsion is from about 0.1 wt.% to about 10 wt.%.

16. A method as defined in claim 14, wherein said lubricant coating contains a surfactant.

25 17. A method as defined in claim 1, further comprising chlorinating the glove.

18. A method as defined in claim 17, wherein chlorination is conducted prior to stripping the glove from said hand-shaped former.

30 19. A method for forming an elastomeric article, said method comprising:
dipping a former into at least one bath containing an elastomeric material to form a substrate body, wherein said elastomeric material of said substrate body includes natural rubber latex, and combinations thereof, said substrate body having an inner surface and an outer surface that define a cavity, said inner surface being positioned adjacent to said former;

applying a hydrogel coating and a lubricant coating to said outer surface of said substrate body while said inner surface of said substrate body remains adjacent to said former; and

thereafter, stripping the elastomeric article from said former without the use of an antiblocking powder, wherein the elastomeric article is inverted so that said outer surface of said substrate body applied with said hydrogel coating and said lubricant coating is configured to face a user's skin when inserted into said cavity.

20. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said hydrogel coating is formed by crosslinking a hydrogel-forming polymer to form a substantially water-insoluble hydrogel network.

21. A method as defined in claim 20, wherein said hydrogel-forming polymer is formed from at least one monomer that is hydrophilic and water-soluble.

22. A method as defined in claim 21, wherein said monomer is selected from the group consisting of vinyl pyrrolidones, hydroxyethyl acrylates, hydroxyethyl methacrylates, hydroxypropyl acrylates, hydroxypropyl methacrylates, acrylic acids, methacrylic acids, acrylic esters, methacrylic esters, vinyl pyridines, acrylamides, vinyl alcohols, ethylene oxides, derivatives thereof, and combinations thereof.

23. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said hydrogel coating further contains an active agent capable of imparting a benefit to a user.

24. A method as defined in claim 19, wherein said lubricant coating contains a silicone emulsion, surfactant, or combinations thereof.

25. A method as defined in claim 19, further comprising chlorinating the elastomeric prior to stripping the article from said former.

26. A glove formed by the method of claim 19.

27. A condom formed by the method of claim 19.

28. A method for forming an elastomeric glove, said method comprising: dipping a hand-shaped former into at least one bath containing an elastomeric material to form a substrate body, said substrate body having an inner surface and an outer surface that define a hand-shaped cavity, said inner surface being positioned adjacent to said hand-shaped former;

applying a hydrogel coating and a lubricant coating to said outer surface of said substrate body while said inner surface of said substrate body remains

adjacent to said hand-shaped former, wherein said hydrogel coating is formed from a monomer selected from the group consisting of hydroxyethyl acrylates, hydroxyethyl methacrylates, hydroxypropyl acrylates, derivatives thereof, and combinations thereof; and

5 thereafter, stripping the glove from said hand-shaped former without the use of an antiblocking powder, wherein the glove is inverted so that said outer surface of said substrate body applied with said hydrogel coating is configured to face a user's hand when inserted into said hand-shaped cavity.

10 29. A method as defined in claim 28, wherein said elastomeric material of said substrate body includes an emulsion-based elastomeric material.

15 30. A method as defined in claim 29, wherein said emulsion-based elastomeric material is selected from the group consisting of natural rubber latex, isoprene polymers, chloroprene polymers, vinyl chloride polymers, butadiene polymers, styrene-butadiene polymers, carboxylated styrene-butadiene polymers, acrylonitrile-butadiene polymers, carboxylated acrylonitrile-butadiene polymers, acrylonitrile-styrene-butadiene polymers, carboxylated acrylonitrile-styrene-butadiene polymers, derivatives thereof, and combinations thereof.

20 31. A method as defined in claim 28, wherein said elastomeric material of said substrate body includes natural rubber latex.

25 32. A method as defined in claim 28, wherein said hydrogel coating further contains an active agent capable of imparting a benefit to a user.

33. A method as defined in claim 28, wherein said hydrogel coating has a thickness of from about 0.1 to about 20 micrometers.

25 34. A method as defined in claim 28, wherein said lubricant coating is applied prior to stripping the glove from said hand-shaped former.

35. A method as defined in claim 28, wherein said lubricant coating contains a silicone emulsion, a surfactant, or combinations thereof.

36. A method as defined in claim 28, further comprising chlorinating the glove.

30 37. A method as defined in claim 36, wherein chlorination is conducted prior to stripping the glove from said hand-shaped former.